

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 39 of the First Extraordinary Session
By Atchley

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Wanda Crouch Walker on being
selected 1999 Tennessee Mother of the Year.

WHEREAS, a poet once wrote that "A mother is one who understands the things you say and do; Who always overlooks your faults and sees the best in you; A mother is one whose special love inspires you day by day. Who fills your heart with gladness in her warm and thoughtful way"; and

WHEREAS, one mother who fits this description is Wanda Crouch Walker of Knoxville. Throughout all the different facets of her life, she has demonstrated the highest characteristics of American motherhood and has remained steadfast in her support of the family as the anchor of a strong and healthy society; and

WHEREAS, born in McMinnville, Wanda graduated with honors from the University of Tennessee with a degree in Liberal Arts and is currently working toward a Master's Degree in Accounting; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Walker approached the Parents Association for the Rights of Educating Non-Traditional Students (PARENTS) seeking help for her son, Clinton, who was diagnosed with Asperger's Disorder, a high functioning form of Autism; and

WHEREAS, following the advice of PARENTS, through much persistence and advocacy, she secured the type of help that her son needed, which resulted in Clinton obtaining his high

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school diploma in December 1998 and his enrollment at the University of Tennessee where he is successfully working towards his goal of becoming a Biology Professor; and

WHEREAS, Wanda also encouraged the interests of her daughter, Rachel, who graduated, from the University of Tennessee last spring, with a degree in Theater and Costume Design and who is currently studying in London, England; and

WHEREAS, as a result of her association with PARENTS in her quest to find help for her son, Wanda Walker joined the organization, and was subsequently elected Vice-President. She soon started a fund-raising drive for PARENTS that contributed greatly to its operating capability; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Walker works as a parole officer at the Tennessee Board of Paroles, supervising released felons and helping them to secure those services that will assist them to succeed as law-abiding citizens. She is constantly upgrading her employment training so as to have the latest information to help her deal with her clients; and

WHEREAS, in connection with her career, Wanda Walker is president of the Parole/Probation Women's Club, a member of the American Parole and Probation Association, the Tennessee Correctional Association, the Citizens' Police Academy Alumni Association, the Metropolitan Drug Commission Gang Task Force, the Tennessee State Employees Association and the East Tennessee Victims Task Force; and

WHEREAS, she contributes her time and talent to such family-oriented organizations as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Serenity Shelter for Women Involved in Domestic Violence Situations, and the Tennessee Education Association; she has volunteered her efforts for the Neighborhood Fair, Community Service for the University of Tennessee, the Knoxville Museum of Art, Harvest Food Bank and the Boy Scouts of America as a committee member; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Crouch Walker has recently been elected 1999 Tennessee Mother of the Year and is the Tennessee nominee for National Mother of the Year, sponsored by American Mothers, Inc., an organization of women and men, married and single, parents and

grandparents, dedicated to preserving the moral and spiritual foundations of the family in America; and

WHEREAS, Wanda evinces her devout religious faith as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Crouch Walker truly exemplifies the best traits of American motherhood and is the portrait of good citizenship; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Wanda Crouch Walker for her service to the state of Tennessee as an exemplary mother to, and role model for, our state's future, our children. We also congratulate Wanda Crouch Walker on being selected as the 1999 Tennessee Mother of the Year, and wish her every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.